

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of the
California-American Water Company (U210W)
for an Order Authorizing it to Increase its Rates
for Water Service in its Sacramento District to
Increase Revenues by \$8,198,700 in the Year 2003;
and \$1,955,000 in the Year 2004.

Application 02-09-030
(Filed September 19, 2002)

And Related Matters.

Application 02-09-031
(Filed September 19, 2002)
Application 02-09-032
(Filed September 19, 2002)
Application 02-09-033
(Filed September 19, 2002)

SCOPING MEMO AND RULING OF ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER

Summary

California-American Water Company (CalAm) filed four general rate increase applications on September 19, 2002 seeking authority to increase water rates in its Sacramento, Larkfield, Felton and Montara districts, and related relief. A prehearing conference was held on November 20, 2002. Pursuant to Rules 6(a)(3) and 6.3 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure, I am issuing this scoping memo and ruling to confirm the proceeding category and need for hearing, establish the issues and timetable, and designate the principal hearing officer.

Scope of the Proceeding

This proceeding will address the following issues:

1. What revenue requirements, rate designs, and rates should be ordered for CalAm's Sacramento and Larkfield districts for 2003 and 2004, and for its Felton and Montara districts for 2003, 2004 and 2005?
2. What figures should the Commission adopt for the standard components underlying its adopted revenue requirement, rate design and attrition, including but not limited to: itemized results of operations at present and adopted rates; financial structure, cost of debt and equity, and return on rate base; growth and sales forecasts; depreciation rates and reserves; quantities necessary for later offset calculations, etc.?
3. Should the Commission grant Special Rate Requests #1 through #7 in the applications, in which CalAm asks the Commission for balancing and memorandum account relief, tariff changes, and district consolidations for ratemaking?
4. Should the Commission authorize any other relief, impose any requirements or conditions, or make any other findings in connection with its order in this general rate case?

Timetable

The schedule for this proceeding is as follows:

February 28, 2003	Commission staff and parties other than CalAm serve direct testimony and exhibits.
March 14, 2003	CalAm serves rebuttal testimony.
March 24, 2003	CalAm and staff serve reconciliation exhibit.

March 24, 2003	Evidentiary hearings begin at 9:30 a.m., in the Commission Courtroom, State Office Building, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco.
April 24, 2003	Concurrent briefs filed; proceeding submitted.
June 9, 2003	Proposed Decision filed. Comments on Proposed Decision (20 days after Proposed Decision filed). Reply Comments on Proposed Decision (five days following Comments).
July, 2003	Commission meeting to consider Proposed Decision.

Category and Need for Hearing

This ruling confirms that this is a ratesetting proceeding and that a hearing is required, as preliminarily determined in Resolution ALJ 176-3096.

Principal Hearing Officer

Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) James McVicar is designated as the principal hearing officer (Rule 5(l)), and thus will be the presiding officer under Rule 5(k)(2).

Final Oral Argument Before the Commission

Any party wishing to exercise the right under Rule 8(d) to make a final oral argument before the Commission must file a written request and serve it on all parties and the assigned Commissioner and assigned ALJ not later than the case submission date.

IT IS RULED that:

1. The issues to be considered are those described in this ruling.
2. The timetable for the proceeding is as set forth herein.
3. This is a ratesetting proceeding.
4. A hearing is needed.
5. Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) James McVicar is designated as the principal hearing officer.
6. Any party wishing to make a final oral argument before the Commission must file a written request and serve it on all parties and the assigned Commissioner and assigned ALJ not later than the case submission date.

Dated December 3, 2002, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ CARL WOOD

Carl Wood
Assigned Commissioner

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have by mail this day served a true copy of the original attached Scoping Memo and Ruling of Assigned Commissioner on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record.

Dated December 3, 2002, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ FANNIE SID

Fannie Sid

N O T I C E

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to insure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.

The Commission's policy is to schedule hearings (meetings, workshops, etc.) in locations that are accessible to people with disabilities. To verify that a particular location is accessible, call: Calendar Clerk (415) 703-1203.

If specialized accommodations for the disabled are needed, e.g., sign language interpreters, those making the arrangements must call the Public Advisor at (415) 703-2074 or TTY# 1-866-836-7825 or (415) 703-5282 at least three working days in advance of the event.